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ning to fathom and forecast. Read from this point of view, your work is a valuable addition to the vast mass of material, connected with the War of Secession and the Struggle for Nationality, which the historian of the future must work over and assimilate.

Believe me, etc.,

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Beverley B. Munford, Esq.,
Richmond, Va.

GENEALOGY.

THE BRENT FAMILY.

Compiled by W. B. CHILTON, Washington, D. C.

(CONTINUED.)

WILL OF GEORGE BRENT, OF WOODSTOCK.

In the name of God Amen. I George Brent of Wood Stock in Virginia, contemplating the fate of this mortal life do make and ordain this my last will and testament, in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to God, my Creator, & to the infinite mercies of my Redeemer my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by whose passion and merits alone I hope for salvation, through the divine justice, of God the Father and the holy Ghost.

I bequeath my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian manner, & all my worldly estate to be disposed of as follows (viz) to my son and heir. George Brent & to his heirs. for ever, I give all my lands & Rights to lands in England.

Also I give to my said son Geo. Brent, & to the heirs of his body all my lands at Wood Stock, viz five hundred acres bought of Giles Brent, Esq. three hundred acres bought of Mr. Henry Peyton, two hundred acres, part of five hundred bought of Mary Rinit—the other sold to Mr. Nicholas Hayward, and nine hundred acres that lies between mine and Mr. John Guin's land. Also I give to my said son and to the heirs of his body..... (page missing) (Daugh) ter Maria & for default of such heirs to my daughter Martha and the heirs of her body and for default of such heirs to my son Henry and his heirs for ever. To my said son Henry Brent & to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten I give four hundred acres the half of eight hundred acres of land held betwixt Colo. Fitzhugh & me & at

Powels Creek, which we have agreed not to take the advantage of survivorship & as I would, so I know he will keep promise & confirm to him my sa'd son—this is the land Harman Salley leased one hundred acres of. Item. I give to my sa'd son Henry Brent and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, six hundred and six acres part of my great tract at Brenton viz—six acres in the town and six hundred in the Country, being three town lots to be laid out together both in town and Country.

To my son Robert Brent and to the heirs of his body, six hundred and six acres of the sa'd Brenton tract in form and manner aforesaid—I bequeath To my son Nicholas Brent and to the heirs of his body I give four hundred and four acres of Brenton tract in manner as afore'd.....(three pages missing), each their respective bodies.

I give to my daughter Maria Brent and the heirs of her body my plantation at Quanticoe bought of Richard Rechlein, being three hundred acres, and for default of such heirs, to my son Henry Brent, & to the heirs of his body & for default of such heirs, to my daughter Martha Brent, & the heirs of her body.

To my son Henry Brent I give my land at Swanson's Creek on Patuxon River, in the province of Maryland that descended to me from my Brother Henry Brent who was Godfather to my sa'd son Henry, the sa'd plantation and all its Appertenances to him my son Henry and the heirs of his body & for default of such heirs, to my daughter Maria and the heirs of her body, & for default of such to my daughter Martha and the heirs of her body, & for default of such, the reversion in my heir at law, in whom by operation & descent in law in all the estates tail in this my will made there is a..... (page missing) his heirs for ever I give the tract of seventeen hundred acres of Land upon Aquia Run where my Quarter is, having taken the deeds in his name, & Also I give to him the sa'd Nicholas one Bull and all the female cattle upon the sa'd plantation together with the brand mark N B used upon the plantation and also six sows & one boar upon that plantation.

And my will is that at the age of sixteen he be possessed of the sa'd Cattle, Hogs, & six Ewes & go to live there.

All the rest of my lands not disposed of in this my will, I give to my son & heir George Brent & to his heirs for ever under no other restraint or reservation but only to see my debts faithfully paid and my will full performed.

Which sa'd lands I will here enumerate, viz—one thousand acres at Nomanie where Morgan Williams is tenant which either descends or escheats to me, upon the death of Mr. Arthur Balderoe from whom I have not heard this ten years, & sa'd Williams is now my

tenant, but if Balderoe should be living or have disposed of it, or any nearer heir should appear Let not my son meddle with it I charge him upon my Blessing. Next five thousand acres now at Brenton in my great tract not before disposed of. 3ly five hundred acres at the mouth of Quanticoe that I bought of Mr. William Browne on which Gibson is tenant of part. 4ly, five hundred and fifty-five acres called Budgins on which Morie Peake is tenant. 5ly one thousand one hundred and forty three acres on which Robert Williams is tenant. 6ly, one tract not seated of 1391 acres lying near Budgin's on which there is yet no tenant. Now you must know that this 1391 acres of land last mentioned was surveyed by one Thomas Osborne who by his will giving me his whole estate, this survey came to me & I obtained a patent in my own name after his death, but have since understood that Robert Hanks paid to the sa'd Osborne one thousand pounds of tobacco for some of the sa'd land which never was confirmed to him therefore my will(two pages missing), place put by and under the quit rents of six shillings yearly, to be paid when the sa'd Wm. arrives at full age, & not before. And now I haveing made all the devises I design in my lands I shall only refer those that are concern'd in this my will to certain registers in my great Ledger which will show how I acquir'd my lands, how I hold them, the time and place of executing the deeds, Patents and conveyances, what records to repair to and where to find the conveyances in an alphabetical method placed, & marked with respective Letters which method I have taken and now publish in this my will because in this country Children differ for want of being well informed in their rights—given by, or descending from their Parents.

As for my personal estate I dispose it in manner following, first I give to pious uses two thousand pounds of tobacco & casks to be disposed of by my Executors as to them shall seem most convenient, for which they are to be accountable to none but God Almighty.

God having blessed me with twenty five negroes young and old besides any that I had with my dear last wife, I do dispose of as in manner following: To my son George I give Goliah, Flora, Punch, Sall, Jogo alias Jack, them and encrease for ever. To my son Nicholas I give Caesar, Great Pompey, Deborah and Samuel which last five are at his quarter them & their encrease for ever. To my son Robert I give Will, Great Jack & Rachael, Will's wife and their encrease for ever. To my daughter Elizabeth Brent I give Frank, Charles, Jinney & Valentine them and their encrease for ever. To my son Henry I give Little Pompey, Bess his wife & Betty their daughter them & their increase for ever—to my two youngest daughters Maria and Martha I give Bridget and her son Will & Daughters Maria & Lucy

& George (Maria's Children) & Margaret (Deborah's Daughter) them and their encrease to be equally divided betwixt them—that is to say those six & what encrease shall come until one of them shall arrive at the age of eighteen or be married & then to be divided equally between them, & my will is that if any of my children die under age and unmarried that his or her part shall be divided amongst all my children equally both in negroes and other chattels..... (two pages missing), before it be twelve years old & my Daughter do not marry to leave more Children, that in such case the sa'd two Negroes shall remain to my three children by my last most dear wife, both them and their encrease, viz to Henry, Maria and Martha or to the survivors of them.

To my son Robert I give all the female cattle at that quarter which I have given him in this my will & the brand R B belonging to that quarter.

To my Daughter Elizabeth I give ten cows & a bull, six sows and a boar & my will is that they be paid to her at the day of marriage or age of eighteen which shall first happen.

To my son Henry six cows, six sows and six ewes & my mare Jewell & her last year's colt.

To my two Daughters Maria and Martha I give twelve Cows, twelve sows & twelve ewes, equally to be divided at the age of eighteen in the eldest & on day of marriage of either which shall first happen.

To my son Robert I give my mare Rose & all her encrease.

To my son Nicholas I give the bay mare and her encrease.

To my son Robert six ewes and do will that at the age of seventeen, he go to his plantation & have the management of his estate, but not to sell anything besides his crops until he be of full age & so my meaning is for my son Nicholas altho have not yet before expressed it. All my plate I give to my son George & do order him to pay to his sister Elizabeth and his two Brothers Nicholas and Robert Brent five pounds sterling money to buy each of them a piece of plate, this plate given my son George is all marked with my coat of Arms. I give my wedding ring to my son Geo. Brent it being his Mother's & her diamond ring to her daughter Elizabeth, my great plain..... (3 pages missing.)

However I positively will they shall be paid, the debts due to me I hope will far over pay mine, but in case there should be any accident, I will and desire that for this two next crops all my servants and slaves be employed about making good tobacco & put under good overseers & a great stock of tobacco that way rais'd to pay my debts speedily in case those due me should not come in well, which if they do & discharge my debts without my crops, then it will be of greater

advantage to my children, but still for the good of my soul which I must desire my friends and children to be very careful of & not neglect or delay the payment of my debts but in the first place to settle them faithfully.

To my son George I give twelve cows & the remaining part of my sheep & all the breeding sows I have on this plantation where I live: my draught oxen I give four to my son George, to Robert & Nicholas each a yoke as they go to their own plantations, my stock of horses at.....(two pages missing), these are both tobacco debts, the first is to be found in sa'd Mason's ledger & the other I do not know to whom it is due or the amount of the sum but have heard that it was 8000 pounds or thereabouts & think it is to one Magone & another debt in which Mr. Mason and myself were jointly involved for indian corn to one Elisha Melows of Barbados for which he hath our bond & is given credit for it in my great Ledger, but no body has demanded it of me; the debt is about 2000 lbs. tobacco—now the reason that I mention these things in my will is, Because I most earnestly desire they may be paid to those, that they of right belong, and that no act of limitation be pleaded or any pretence of that nature in these or any other debts that are found to stand unpaid, by my books. I confess it is some prejudice they have not been demanded all this time when tobacco has laid so much upon my hands, but.....(The remainder of the document is missing. It appears from the records of Price William County that the will was dated April 6, 1694. The last page in the MS. is numbered 25. Pages 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 24, and an unknown number of pages at the end are missing. The will is apparently an autograph, and has many corrections in the same hand, which would lead to the supposition that it was the original draft of which a fair copy was afterwards made.)

By a deed in Prince William county it is shown that the will of George Brent, of Woodstock, was dated April 6, 1694, and by it he gave 2,000 acres out of Brenton to his eldest son, and directed that the same should be erected into a manor and a whole one quarter of said tract afterwards vested in George Brent, Esq'r., grandson of George Brent, the first named and grandfather to George Brent party to this deed, which is dated 1784. George Brent, grandfather of the present George Brent, and his son Robert, who was father to the present George Brent, sold portions of the land to Wm. Brent of Richland, father of Daniel Carroll Brent. The deed from George Brent (grandfather of the present George Brent), was dated 1778, and that from Robert Brent in 1780. The will of the said William Brent is stated to have been dated Jan. 8, 1782.

(TO BE CONTINUED)